

**Commemorative Service for the 80th Anniversary of the SINKING OF THE  
USS PEARY Address by H.E. YAMAGAMI Shingo, Ambassador of Japan to  
Australia  
19 February 2022**

His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley, Governor General of  
the Commonwealth of Australia,

Her Honour The Administrator of the Northern Territory, the Honourable  
Vicki O'Halloran,

The Honourable Anthony Albanese MP, Federal Leader of the Opposition

The Honourable Michael Gunner MLA, Chief Minister of the Northern  
Territory,

Ms Ngaree Ah Kit, Speaker of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly,

Mrs Lia Finocchiaro MLA, Leader of the Opposition

His Excellency Mr Mark Glauser, High Commissioner of Canada to Australia

Ms Kathleen Lively, Consul-General of the United States of America,

The Honourable Kon Vatskalis, Lord Mayor of Darwin,

Members of the Federal Parliament, Representatives of the Australian  
Defence Force,

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

The Second World War was a conflict of unimaginable scale, in which the  
youth of many nations perished fighting for a cause in which they  
believed.

This was as evident in the bravery shown by the crew of the USS PEARY  
and the shore defenders of Darwin as it was for the crew of the I-124.

Yet from sacrifice came reconciliation, of a desire to create a better world where peace would define relations between nations.

From initial beginnings in the salvage operation by FUJITA Ryugo in Darwin Harbour, our relationship has grown and matured over the decades, supported by our trade and people-to-people ties.

We reached a new stage in our bilateral engagement with the signing of the Reciprocal Access Agreement in January this year.

This Agreement brings our relationship even closer, complementing our already robust security ties with our mutual ally, the United States of America.

As partners in the Indo-Pacific region, Japan, Australia, the United States, along with other like-minded countries have accomplished much together, and for us, I believe the future is indeed bright.

We shall continue to work hard to realise a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.

So we remember our forebears, for in their sacrifice and commitment, they laid the path for us and our mateship everlasting.

Rest in Peace.

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